and

for each discrete event, processing each independent sub-event of said discrete event sequentially and then storing the results of said processing.

14.   (amended)   A system for processing a plurality of discrete events, each discrete event comprising a plurality of independent sub-events to be processed, comprising:

distributing means for distributing said plurality of discrete events into one of a plurality of segments, each segment comprising a sequence of [at least one] a plurality of discrete events to be processed;

initiating means for initiating each of said plurality of segments to execute concurrently on at least one processor;

at least one processor for processing said plurality of discrete events by processing each discrete event with each segment sequentially and by processing each independent sub-event within each discrete event sequentially; and

memory means for storing the processed discrete events.

27.   (amended)   A symmetric multiprocessing computer system for processing a customer billing and invoicing job comprising:

a plurality of processors each of said processors sharing a single copy of an operating system, each of said processors configured to execute a single process at any one time, and each of said processors having read and write access to at least one common memory;

at least one disk drive device communicating with a system bus through at least one I/O controller, said system bus further communicating with each of said plurality of processors and said at least one common memory;

run queue means coupled to said processors for holding a sequential list of segments to be processed;

process creation means operating on at least one of said processors for initiating new processes to execute concurrently on said plurality of processors, each of said processes corresponding to a single segment of said billing and invoicing job; and

distributing means for distributing a plurality of discrete events into one of said plurality of segments, wherein for each segment, said processor processes each discrete event within said segment sequentially and wherein for each discrete event, said processor processes each independent sub-event